

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Our freedom of speech is at risk when large media groups can sway public opinion by presenting only one side of a story that serves an ideological agenda. It does not matter which side of an issue that is taken. It is the public's right to have free access to both sides of any issue. If Sinclair is not willing to serve our democracy's best interest, they should lose that privilege.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.